

AN INTRODUCTION TO FSA'S 2005 – 2010 STRATEGIC GOALS

To achieve FSA's mission of *equitably serving all farmers, ranchers, and agricultural partners by delivering effective, efficient agricultural programs for all Americans*, FSA has developed three strategic goals that will guide our actions through the next six years. These goals are:

- **Goal 1: Supporting Productive Farms and Ranches,**
- **Goal 2: Supporting Secure and Affordable Food and Fiber, and**
- **Goal 3: Conserving Natural Resources and Enhancing the Environment.**

This Plan is a major improvement over previous plans in that FSA's strategic goals are no longer "stove piped" or aligned solely along existing program lines. Goals 1 and 2 crosscut farm programs, farm loan programs, and commodity operations. Goal 3 addresses conservation and environmental quality issues as did the previous plan, but Goal 3 is broader, signifying that individual programs work together to achieve societal outcomes (see Figure 7). All performance measures for these goals are outcome focused and include efficiency measures for each program area. FSA envisions that progress toward achieving these three new crosscutting strategic goals, all of which are supported by crosscutting managerial performance measures will demonstrate compliance with the President's Management Agenda and ensure the Agency is both customer- and results-driven. Most important, it will win approval from FSA's customers. This Plan maintains continuity with FSA's former Strategic Plan and complements USDA's Strategic Plan. Figure 8 illustrates these relationships.

FSA's strategic goals are interconnected, and the Agency has aligned all its resources to support them. For example, because many FSA programs support more than one strategic goal, every USDA Service Center provides program support for all three goals, and many Agency partnerships will work toward all three goals simultaneously. To make certain the Agency is making acceptable progress toward reaching these goals, the Plan sets specific measures, targets, and timelines against which FSA can evaluate its success.

Each of the following three sections is dedicated to one of these strategic goals. Each section provides a rationale for the goal and general information about the FSA programs and services that will be used to achieve the goal. The section then describes *End Outcomes*, very high-level results which are influenced by many variables, and identifies measures associated with those outcomes. The section then discusses *Intermediate Objectives*, which are more directly affected by FSA programs and services. The section also lists related performance measures. These are followed by *Means and Strategies*, which provide program-specific actions that FSA will take over the next six years to achieve the goal. Finally, the section covers those *External Factors* that could impede progress toward the goal. Wherever FSA may exert some control over those factors, the section briefly discusses actions FSA might take to mitigate their negative effects.



Strategic Goal Linkage - FSA to USDA to FSA

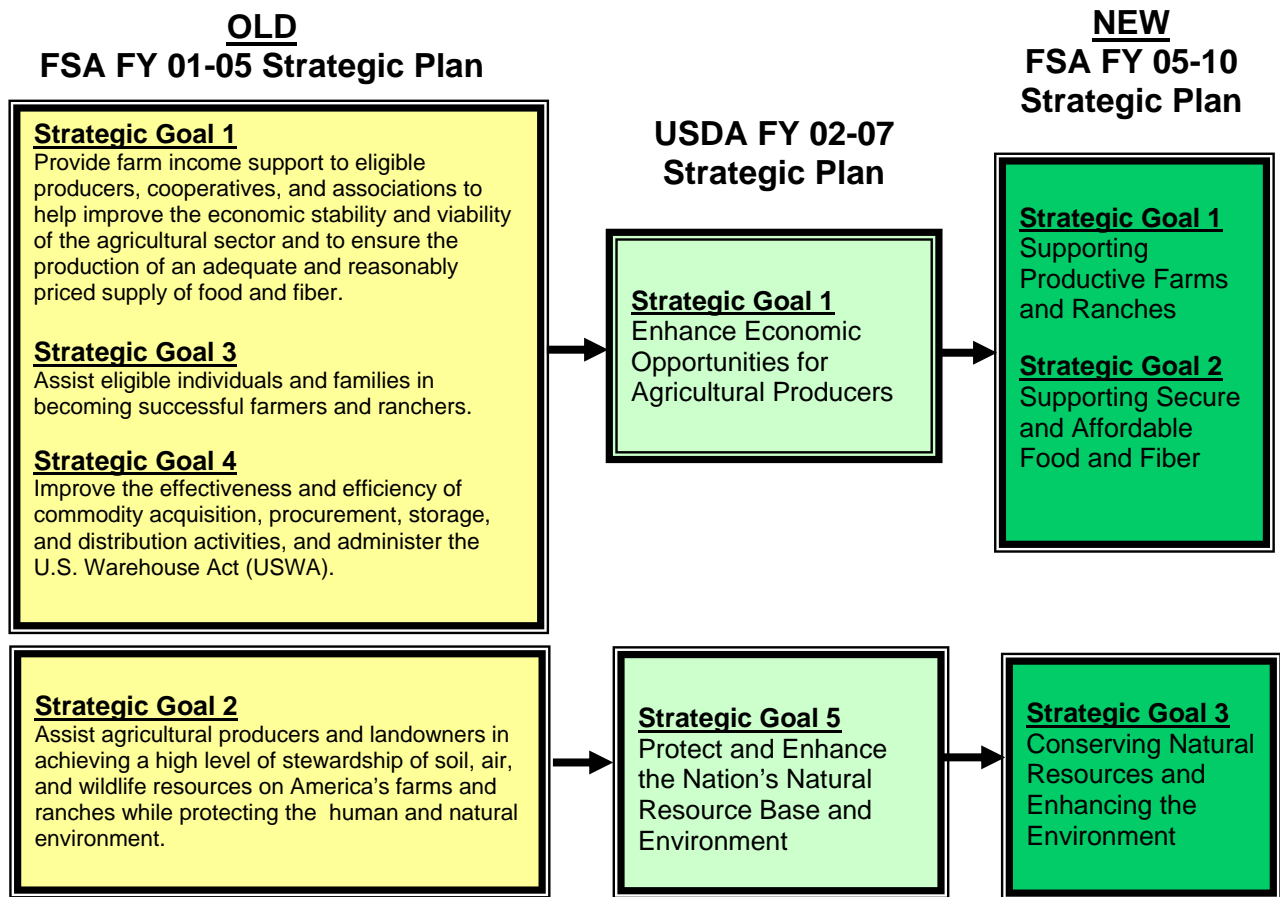


Figure 7. Linkage between FSA's previous strategic goals, USDA's current strategic goals, and FSA's new strategic goals.